

# 2014 County Highlights



## HURON County

### ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

180 Milan Avenue, Suite 1, Norwalk, Ohio 44857-1192

Phone: (419) 668-8219 [huron.osu.edu](http://huron.osu.edu)



#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed):** As the cornerstone of the USDA's nutrition assistance programs, the goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP (food stamps) will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate. Our SNAP-Ed program assistant shares those educational messages with children in elementary classrooms and with low-income adult participants of various social service organizations. Participant feedback has included comments such as, "Our family is eating more fruits and vegetables" and "I'm eating more fiber because of your program."
- **Master Gardener Volunteers:** Huron County Extension is currently training a new class of Master Gardener Volunteer candidates. Candidates obtain full volunteer status upon completion of 50 hours of community service. Huron County Master Gardeners are currently 60 members strong and have documented over 10,000 volunteer hours over the past two years—a contribution of over \$220,000 to the Huron County community.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H Community Clubs:** 4-H Clubs led by adult volunteer advisors are the heart of the 4-H Program. Huron County had 52 clubs with 212 advisors (a four percent increase) and 1,122 members (a four percent increase) in 2014. Developing life skills is the overall goal of 4-H youth development. Goal-setting and following through on commitments are two

of the life skills members gain by completing membership requirements. Ninety-four percent of all members who joined 4-H in the spring were still members at the end of the year. Members completed 92 percent of all projects in which they enrolled.

- **4-H Camp at Camp Conger:** Huron County 4-H has been camping on the banks of the Huron River at Camp Conger since 1925. The Conger Family has graciously allowed 4-H to utilize their property for the benefit of Huron County 4-H. The Conger Family owns the land but leases it to Camp Conger Inc., on a 99-year lease. We hold three camps at Camp Conger each year: Intermediate Resident Camp for sixth through eighth graders, Junior Resident Camp for third through fifth graders and Cloverbud Day Camp for kindergarten through second graders. Last year we had 71 campers at Intermediate Resident Camp, 97 campers at Junior Resident Camp and 100 campers at Cloverbud Day Camp (a 10 percent increase).
- **Older Youth Programs:** Older youth (ages 14–18) in 4-H have the opportunity to participate in 4-H activities beyond the club level. In 2014, 24 percent of all older 4-H youth took advantage of the opportunity to get involved. They served as 4-H Camp Counselors (49), Junior Fair Board members (55), 4-H Committee members (4) and 4-H CARTEENS peer teachers (9).
- **4-H CARTEENS:** This is a traffic safety program conducted by 4-H teen leaders with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. CARTEENS stands for CAution and Responsibility in TEEN drivers. The goal CARTEENS is to increase teen awareness of traffic/



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

[twitter.com/dirkeithsmith](https://twitter.com/dirkeithsmith)  
[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

vehicular safety. One hundred sixty-seven traffic offenders attended a CARTEENS education program during the last 12 months. A parent/guardian must attend with each juvenile. Many parents indicate that this type of program would be beneficial for all teens, before they get their driver's license. The teen participants take the program seriously and report plans to change their driving behavior. The responses from the teens are very positive and many parents and teens thank us for presenting the program.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Quality Assurance Training:** 4-H members taking livestock as projects are livestock producers. Therefore, they must understand their role in raising animals that perform at their highest level and are a safe, wholesome product for consumers. Youth exhibiting market livestock at the fair must complete Quality Assurance Training. In 2014, 421 youth attended Quality Assurance Training. Following the training, 93 percent of participants agreed they will always follow medication label directions unless told by a veterinarian, 92 percent agreed they understood the need for careful use of antibiotics in animals, and 93 percent agreed they will try to properly fill out their Drug Use Notification Forms for the fair.
- **Green Energy:** In the last 18 months, Huron County has become a hotbed for on-farm generation of solar power, as tax credits have been established to promote green energy generation. Several grain and livestock operations have taken advantage of the credits by building large solar generation systems to help power their operations. Working with local electrical providers, agricultural businesses can take advantage of "net metering," which allows for a virtual "trade" of electricity that is generated during periods of lower usage and then used at the farm's peak usage periods. In 2014, Huron County Extension hosted our first on-farm solar energy meeting to continue to encourage growth in solar power in our county. As a result of this meeting, two new solar generation systems were installed on local farms.
- **Water Quality:** Through cover crop education programs and a nutrient management component to the Pesticide Applicator Recertification program, Huron County Extension has taken a leading role in the struggle to improve the water quality of Lake Erie and its tributaries. Over the past three years, working with Huron County Soil and Water Conservation District, Extension has provided four cover crop workshops, multiple demonstration plots, and six cover crop field days. As a result, area farmers have increased cover crop usage by over 13,000 acres since 2011. During that same period, area producers received over \$400,000 in

planting incentives from a Lake Erie restoration grant. Cover crops are just one tool in the struggle to improve water quality, but they have proven to be an effective tool—and most importantly, a tool that producers will utilize.

The health of Lake Erie is so important to the public good that our local programming will reflect this regional priority. Such is the case with the nutrient management training that we will undertake over the next three years. Nutrient management training will now be part of Pesticide Applicator Recertification programs throughout our Extension Education and Research Area.

**Huron County receives \$34,249 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**